Procurement of raw Jute in West Bengal

141. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

20. the quantity of raw jute (in bales) procured by Jute Corporation on India (JCI), month-wise, from July, 97 till date in West Bengal;

21. the number of JCI purchase centres engaged in Price Support Operation in the current jute season (month-wise figure till date); and

22. the district-wise procurement by JCI in West Bengal so far in the present season?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The month-wise procurement of raw jute by the JCI in West Bengal is given below:—

(in balance of 180 Kgs.)

Month	Procurement in W.B.
July	582
August	60,418
Spetember	1,22,333
October	1,29,167
November (upto 11.11.'97)	34,444
TOTAL:	3,46,944

(b) The Statewise details of the numbers of Purchase Centres of JCI involved in price support operation as on 11.11.1997 ate given below:—

States	No . of Purchase Centres in operation
West Bengal	96
Bihar	19
Assam	24
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	6
Andhra Pradesh	11
Tripura	3
TOTAL:	160

(c) The District-wise procurement by JCI in West Bengal upto 11.11.1997 are' given below:—

District	Total Procurement (Bales of 180 Kgs.)
24 Paraganas	41,944
North & South Howrah, Hooglhy & Midnapore	26,667
Nadia	75,444
Murshidabad	75,944
Malda, North & South Dinajpur	44,889
Jalpaiguri & Darjeeling	24,772
Coochbehar	57,334
TOTAL:	3,46,944

Stock production and demand of raw Jute

142. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

22. the cary over stock of raw jute from 1996-97 season;

23. the estimated production of raw jute in 1997-98;

24. the expected demand of raw jute in 1997-98;

25. when the Jute Corporation of India (JO) was instructed to intervene to maintain the Minimum support Price (MSP) level of the price in West Bengal in view of (a), (b) and (c) above;

26. th reasons for the delay in procurement by Jute Corporation of India; and

27. the present status of procurement by Jute Corporation of India vis-a-vis the production in 1997-98 season?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (e) As intimated by the JCI due to a large crop of around 102 lakh bales during 1996-97,

the estimated carryover stock is around 18.50 lakh bales. Estimated production of raw jute of 98 lakh bales in 1997-98. Expected demand of raw jute to the tune of 92.50 lakh bales in 1997-98, prices of raw jute started to slide downwards from April, 1997 and dropped sharply in May & June, 1997. The Ministry was aware of the situation and accordingly JCI was directed to commence Price Support Operations in June, 1997. JCI started Price Support Operation in the early grown areas of West Bengal in July, 1997 as soon as the arival of raw jute started in trickling from third week of July, 1997. As such there was hardly any delay in procurement by JCI.

(f) the present status of procurement by Jute Corporation of India is given below:—

(In likh bales of 180 Kgs.)

Particulars	Production	Procurement upto 11.11.97	Estimated arrivals upto 11.11.1997	Procurement as % of arrivals
All India	98.00	5.20	30.91	17
west Bengal	60.82	3.47	21.42	16

Monitoring of prices of raw Jute in the Country

143. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the agency responsible for monitoring the price of raw jute in various jute growing belts in the country;

(b) when government was informed about the sharp decline in the prices below M.S.P. level this season;

(c) when Jute Corporation of India intervened to ensure that the prices operate above MSP, specially in West Bengal; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in intervention?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. is responsible for monitoring the prices of raw jute in various jute growing belts in the Country.

(b) Government was aware of the downward slide in the prices of raw jute right from the beginning of this season.

(c) the JCI started Price Supprt Operation in the early sown areas of West Bengal from 25.7.1997.

(d) Arrival of raw jute start in trickling from the third week of July, and as such there was hardly any delay in intervention in the market by the JCI.

Annua] demand of cotton in the country

144. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(b) what is the quantity of annual demand of cotton in the country, State-wise;

(c) what is the total quantity of cotton produced in Punjab during the last three years; year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government with regards to expansion of cotton mills in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) estimates the demand of, cotton for the country as a whole. The demand for cotton for 1996-97 as estimated by the CAB was 182.50 lakh bales.